Indo-UK Research Project

2871. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and UK have signed an agreement for joint research project under the Science and Technology Agreement, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of benefits likely to be arrived therefrom; and

(d) the areas where this agreement is likely to work and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) An Indo-UK S and T Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology was signed in New Delhi on January 8, 1996. In pursuance of this Agreement, an Implementing Arrangements was also concluded simultaneously The Arrangement envisages initially joint research projects in Agro-food. Telecommunications and Manufacturing Technologies. There is a provision for the formation of an Indo-British S and T Joint Committee to develop and monitor the S and T Cooperation. As a follow-up of this initiative joint proposals, preferably having relevance to industry, have been invited from the Indian and the British scientists. It is expected that the collaboration would facilitate in the advancement of technologies.

Quality of Drinking Water in Delhi

2872. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Drinking water no longer safe in Delhi" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated February 23, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking (DWS and SDU) has reported that raw water from the river Yamuna is drawn upstream of Wazirabad Barrage for treatment and supply to Delhi. Drinking water being supplied is potable, wholesome and confirms to the stnadards laid down for this purpose in the Bureau of India Standards 10500-1991 and Manual on Water Supply and treatment. Quality control measures are taken right from the raw water stage upto the consumer end. Arrangements to monitor the presence of pesticides in drinking water are being made. The DWS and SDU has also started getting the raw as well as drinking water examined by the Central Pollution Control Board to ensure potability of water.

Self Employment Schemes

2873. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the employment opportunities during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are working on a massive scheme to provide self-employment to the educated unemployed in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Prime Minister had issued any directive to the various departments to prepare a report on this issue;

(e) if so, whether any concrete programme for self-employment has been worked out including the number of persons likely to be benefitted as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) to (f) The Government is contemplating retionalising the existing schemes so that the educated unemployed youths are assisted in an improve manner.

Drinking Water Facility

2874. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Bihar not getting drinking water facility;

(b) whether any survey has been carried out to provide safe drinking water to the far flung villages of Bihar;

(c) if so, the schemes/proposals approved in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?